

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

A TRIBUTE TO THE JESSIEVILLE LIONS

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 2007

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, it is with honor and great pride that I recognize and congratulate the Jessieville Lions of Jessieville, AR, whose outstanding teamwork and dedication on the football field earned them a Class 2A Arkansas State Title at War Memorial Stadium in Little Rock on December 8, 2006. The Jessieville Lions embody the spirit of teamwork, determination, and all that defines a champion.

As a parent, I value the important lessons that teamwork teaches our students in pursuit of a lifetime of success. I have long been an advocate of sports and extracurricular activities as they complement academic excellence, inspire leadership, and build character, which better prepare our State's students to face the challenges of the 21st century.

It is a tremendous honor to congratulate the Jessieville High School football program on winning the Class 2A Arkansas State Football Championship. I applaud the Jessieville Lions for their season. This victory is the result of hard work contributed by the players, students, coaching staff, faculty and the community. I salute all who remained focused on this goal and especially the players who rose to the occasion to become State champions. Congratulations Lions.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHARLIE NORWOOD

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 2007

Mr. NORWOOD. Madam Speaker, on roll-call No. 26; on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 43, had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

U.S. GOVERNMENT SHOULD PRESS INTERIM GOVERNMENT OF TURKMENISTAN TO HOLD FREE AND FAIR PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS ON FEBRUARY 11, 2006

HON. TOM FEENEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 2007

Mr. FEENEY. Madam Speaker, the world has recently witnessed the deaths of two bloody despots: one—Saddam Hussein—was executed for crimes against his own people; the other—President Saparmurat Niyazov of Turkmenistan—was able to escape justice by dying in his sleep.

Under President Niyazov, Turkmenistan became a secretive police state modeled after North Korea. Declaring himself President-for-life, Niyazov banned all political parties except his own; threw his opponents in jail or drove them into exile; and established a state monopoly on media, exercising control over the editorial content.

With the death of the dictator, one would hope that the people of Turkmenistan would finally wake up from their long nightmare and reclaim their rights, chief among them the right to elect their leaders in free and fair elections. However, the interim government has pledged to continue Niyazov's policies and has brought into question their ability to hold truly democratic elections.

The interim government's most competent opponents—the exiled community of business leaders and intellectuals—have effectively been prevented from contesting the elections, even though their leader Khudaiberdy Orazov, whom the united opposition chose as its presidential candidate, would win the majority of the popular vote according to the most recent polls. As former chairman of the Central Bank and a renowned economist, Mr. Orazov is precisely the kind of leader whose insights are badly needed if Turkmenistan is to rebuild its crumbling infrastructure and revive its ailing education and healthcare systems.

I urge my colleagues in calling for free, fair, and democratic elections in Turkmenistan and for the interim government to allow its opponents the opportunity to contest the February 11 elections. In order to maintain our commitment to democracy, both at home and abroad, we can do no less.

I am including for the RECORD a copy of Jan. 3 Washington Post article, "New Future for Turkmenistan," which was written by a well-respected pro-democracy opposition leader in exile, Nurmukhammet Hanamov, whose two sons were assassinated in retaliation for his outspoken opposition to Niyazov's regime. The U.S. government would do well to hear the heartfelt plea this courageous man makes in his article.

[From The Washington Post]

A NEW BEGINNING FOR TURKMENISTAN

(By Nurmukhammet Hanamov)

Last week Turkmenistan buried its brutal dictator, Saparmurat Niyazov. His ruthless reign spanned two decades, during which time his policies became increasingly irrational and unpredictable. The long list of Niyazov's crimes against our people includes: banning all political parties except his own and jailing his opponents; preventing thousands of disloyal citizens from traveling abroad; persecuting religious and ethnic minorities; outlawing opera; and shutting down regional hospitals, firing thousands of doctors and nurses. Under Niyazov, Turkmenistan became a corridor for heroin trafficking from Afghanistan to the West and gained for itself one of the highest heroin addiction rates in the world.

Above all, Niyazov was a selfish and kleptocratic despot, stashing billions in proceeds from the sale of the country's enormous natural gas resources in personal ac-

counts in Western banks. He used this money to fuel his outlandish personality cult, building opulent palaces and golden statues of himself even as his people were deprived of basic necessities and suffer one of the world's lowest life expectancy rates. The West's indifference was striking compared with the relentless criticism by the United States and the European Union against the more benign regime of Alexander Lukashenko, president of gas-poor Belarus.

With Niyazov gone, the West has a historic second chance to help our country make a peaceful transition to democracy. Turkmenistan's interim rulers have unfortunately pledged to continue Niyazov's policies, even ordering new statues of him, and their efforts to grab power amount to a coup d'état. The former health minister—under the de facto control of Niyazov's Presidential Guard—has arrested the speaker of Parliament, who constitutionally is next in the line of succession. He has sealed the country's borders and, using other unconstitutional measures, has set the stage for his own unchallenged victory in presidential elections scheduled for Feb. 11.

The United States must send a clear message to Niyazov's holdouts in the interim government in Ashgabat: that they will not have its support unless they agree to hold free and fair elections—ones that allow all citizens of Turkmenistan, including exiled opposition leaders and political prisoners, to take part.

We know that the United States has tried to help the people of Turkmenistan in recent years, and thanks to American educational exchange programs, there is a thriving community of bright Turkmen students and intellectuals who are living in Western countries and are ready to return and help rebuild their country. This community is largely held together by the efforts of Khudaiberdy-Orazov, a former chairman of the National Bank and an accomplished and energetic leader who was forced into exile several years ago. He was unanimously nominated to be a candidate in the February presidential elections by a broad coalition of opposition groups inside and outside of Turkmenistan. According to a recent poll, Orazov's candidacy would have the support of a majority of Turkmen voters. Until Orazov and other opposition candidates are allowed to contest the February elections, the United States and the European Union must refrain from recognizing the junta in Ashgabat and freeze all personal accounts of Niyazov and his cronies abroad. We hope that members of Congress and other government officials will visit Turkmenistan soon to personally deliver that message.

We must rebuild our country, and with the help of our friends and neighbors we can do it in an open and transparent way. Priorities for a democratically elected government during the initial post-Niyazov reconstruction must be to release all political prisoners, conduct open tenders and allow Western companies to bid for a stake in developing Turkmenistan's oil and gas fields; to consider new ways of getting our gas and oil to Western markets; to restore private property that Niyazov confiscated from Turkmen citizens; and to create a reconstruction fund using Niyazov's personal bank accounts and proceeds from the sale of oil and gas to revive the health-care and education systems.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

The United States is spending billions of dollars trying to turn Afghanistan and Iraq—both deep in the throes of civil war—into democratic nations while all but abandoning their peaceful post-Soviet neighbors to the north. Turkmenistan is ready for a new beginning, and the West must finally step up to the plate. To do otherwise would waste a historic opportunity and allow yet another case of popular discontent with an illegitimate government to become an anti-Western lost cause.

A TRIBUTE TO THE NASHVILLE SCRAPPERS

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 2007

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, it is with honor and great pride that I recognize and congratulate the Nashville Scrappers of Nashville, AR, whose outstanding teamwork and dedication on the football field earned them a Class 4A Arkansas State Title at War Memorial Stadium in Little Rock on December 9, 2006. The Nashville Scrappers embody the spirit of teamwork, determination, and all that defines a champion.

As a parent, I value the important lessons that teamwork teaches our students in pursuit of a lifetime of success. I have long been an advocate of sports and extracurricular activities as they complement academic excellence, inspire leadership, and build character, which better prepare our State's students to face the challenges of the 21st century.

It is a tremendous honor to congratulate the Nashville High School football program on winning the Class 4A Arkansas State Football Championship. I applaud the Nashville Scrappers for their season. This victory is the result of hard work contributed by the players, students, coaching staff, faculty and the community. I salute all who remained focused on this goal and especially the players who rose to the occasion to become State champions. Congratulations Scrappers.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHARLIE NORWOOD

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 2007

Mr. NORWOOD. Madam Speaker, on roll-call No. 24, on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 61, had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

TRIBUTE TO THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE DANCE TEAM

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 2007

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the University of Tennessee Dance Team, located in my District, for winning their first ever Division IA National title.

On January 15th, 2007, the team competed against 17 other Division IA dance teams at

the Universal Dance Associations College Nationals held at the Walt Disney World Resort in Orlando, FL.

The team was awarded an all expenses paid trip to the national competition after placing third in the qualifying round, based on a two minute video they submitted in October, 2006.

Although they placed 1st in semi-finals, the team knew their competitors would step up their performances in the next round. In the final round, Tennessee gave its strongest performance yet, leaving the crowd in awe and leaving no doubt in the minds of the judges who should receive the National title.

The team defeated the four time National Champions, the Minnesota Golden Gopher Dance Team, by a margin of more than 20 points.

The Tennessee dancers worked intensely to reach this never before attained goal, practicing up to three times a day over their holiday break.

The Tennessee Spirit program is the only program in the country to place in the top five in the Cheerleading, Mascot and Dance divisions.

I would also like to congratulate coaches Kelley Eidenmuller, Valerie Baxter and Spirit Coordinator Joy Postell on their exceptional work with this group of dancers.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I would like to call to the attention of my colleagues and other readers of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a recent article from utsports.com regarding the University of Tennessee Dance Team's outstanding achievement.

TENNESSEE DANCE TEAM CAPTURES FIRST NATIONAL CROWN

ORLANDO, Jan. 14, 2007.—Tennessee's long elusive national crown finally found its resting place in Knoxville as Tennessee's Dance team captured its first national crown in commanding fashion in the land of dreams and wishes.

At the Milk House in Orlando, Florida, Tennessee put on a dominating performance before a packed house at the Wide World of Sports Complex. Performing to "Your House" by Alisa Morissette, the dance team performed to an Acapella version of the song and simply rocked the house.

Co-Head Coach Kellie Edenmueller said this team knew this was the material it would take to bring home the national championship.

"We knew from the moment we put this together it had the potential to bring us a national championship. Our girls worked tirelessly and put together a great performance."

Tennessee was not without their fans as more than 150 made their way to the Milk House and turned the old can into a home away from home. It was something this program has sought for almost a decade.

"It is finally a breath of fresh air to win this national title, both from a coaching standpoint and a coordinator of trying to raise the bar," said UT Spirit Coordinator Joy Postell. "Repeatedly these squads have come here and have left disappointed because they did not achieve their goal. To finally achieve the goal, to represent your university and to win the title is breathtaking and ecstatic."

"The feeling I have and pride I have that UT has allowed me to have a phenomenal program to reach out to so many spirit athletes. Not just athletics but in every aspect and to bring notoriety to this university. At Tennessee we work together as a team and cheer, dance, and mascot are all emphasized

as being winners and achievers. Everyone of these teams is very supportive of the other. I am very fortunate to have the tools the university provides me to succeed. For us to reach the top five in every category is both not just a personal goal but a goal of every athlete in this program."

Tennessee was the only program in the nation to place in the top five in the country in Mascot (5th place), Cheer (4th place) and dance again in the Hip-Hop division with a 5th place finish.

Tonight was truly magical and the young women made it happen.

A TRIBUTE TO THE ARKANSAS HIGH RAZORBACKS

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 2007

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, it is with honor and great pride that I recognize and congratulate the Arkansas High School Razorbacks of Texarkana, AR, whose outstanding teamwork and dedication on the football field earned them a Class 6A Arkansas State Title at War Memorial Stadium in Little Rock on November 25, 2006. The Arkansas High Razorbacks embody the spirit of teamwork, determination, and all that defines a champion.

As a parent, I value the important lessons that teamwork teaches our students in pursuit of a lifetime of success. I have long been an advocate of sports and extracurricular activities as they complement academic excellence, inspire leadership, and build character, which better prepare our state's students to face the challenges of the 21st century.

It is a tremendous honor to congratulate the Arkansas High School football program on winning the Class 6A Arkansas State Football Championship. I applaud the Arkansas High School Razorbacks for their season. This victory is the result of hard work contributed by the players, students, coaching staff, faculty and the community. I salute all who remained focused on this goal and especially the players who rose to the occasion to become State champions. Congratulations Razorbacks!

TRIBUTE TO AMERICAN CANCER FUND FOR CHILDREN AND KIDS CANCER CONNECTION

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 2007

Mr. WAXMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the American Cancer Fund for Children and Kids Cancer Connection, located in the 30th Congressional District, which I represent.

Los Angeles mayor Antonio Villaraigosa proclaimed the week of December 11, 2006, as "Childhood Cancer Awareness Week" in the city of Los Angeles. I am pleased to join Mayor Villaraigosa in thanking Steven Firestein, the founder of American Cancer Fund for Children and its sister organization, Kids Cancer Connection, for his wonderful work in assisting children with cancer.

More than 12 years ago, Steven began the American Cancer Fund for Children to provide

vital patient psychosocial services to children undergoing cancer treatment at the Skull Base Institute at the Cedars-Sinai Medical Office Towers in Los Angeles, Mattel Children's Hospital at UCLA Medical Center in Los Angeles, and participating hospitals throughout the country.

One of the wonderful services provided through American Cancer Fund for Children is the Magical Caps for Kids program. Hand-made caps and decorated baseball caps are given to children who want to protect their heads following the trauma of chemotherapy, surgery, and radiation. The American Cancer Fund for Children also sponsors Courageous Kid award ceremonies and hospital celebrations in recognition of children's bravery and determination in their struggle against cancer.

As we know, cancer is the leading cause of death by disease among children in the United States. This tragic disease is detected in nearly 11,000 of our Nation's children each year. Steven Firestein and the American Cancer Fund for Children and Kids Cancer Connection are providing critical services and comfort to young patients and their families. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Steven Firestein for his tremendous efforts.

CHOOSE GENEROSITY, NOT
EXCLUSION

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 2007

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, somewhere in Minneapolis or Jackson or Baltimore, somewhere in America today, there is a young couple that is feeling vulnerable. Maybe one has been laid off due to outsourcing, and maybe, the other is working for something close to a minimum wage. They probably have no medical benefits. Today real income is lower for the typical family than in 2000, while the incomes of the wealthiest families have grown significantly. Things are tough for working people, but in America, we often turn to our faith in tough times.

When our couple shows up for worship service, probably on a Sunday, there is no doubt that the preacher will tell them of God's unyielding love. "God loves you." But the next thing the preacher tells them is crucial—not only to the young couple, but to us all. The next message from the preacher may help to shape, not only the next election results, but the political landscape of the Nation.

Will the preacher tell our young couple, "God loves you—but only you and people like you?" Or will the preacher say "God loves you and you must love your neighbors of all colors, cultures, or faiths as yourselves"? One message will lead to be a stinginess of spirit, an exclusion of the "undeserving," and the other will lead to a generosity of spirit and inclusion of all.

In America today, we are encouraged to believe in the myth of scarcity—that there just isn't enough—of anything. But in the story of the miracle of the loaves and fishes, Jesus, who the Muslims called Isa, found himself preaching to 5,000—not including the women by the way—at dinner time, and there didn't appear to be enough food. The disciples said that there were only five barley loaves and two

fish. We just have to send them away hungry. We simply don't have enough. But Jesus took the loaves and the fish and started sharing food. There was enough for everyone. There was more than enough. What was perceived as scarcity was illusory as long as there was sharing, and not hoarding.

The idea here is not that there is a boundless supply of everything. Such an idea leads to waste and dispensability of everything. But the idea is that there is enough.

If scarcity is a myth, then poverty is not necessary. America need not have 37 million Americans living below the poverty line. It is a choice. Hunger is a choice. Exclusion of the stranger, the immigrant, or the darker other is a choice.

We can choose generosity. In America today, we spend more on health care than any other industrialized Nation, yet 46 million people have none. Canada spends half of what we spend and covers everyone. Perfectly? Of, course not. But adequately. That's more than what a lot of people have right now.

We live in a society which says that there is enough for a tax break for the wealthy but not enough for an increase in the minimum wage for national health care. There is enough for subsidies to oil and coal companies but not for families who are struggling to afford child care or a college education. But it doesn't have to be this way.

We need a politics of generosity based on the reality of abundance as opposed to a politics of not enough. The richest 1 percent of the Nation, on average, owns 190 times as much as a typical household. The child poverty rate in the United States is the highest of 16 other industrialized nations. Employers are shifting health insurance costs onto workers. Not only are fewer employees receiving health insurance through their employers, but those who still do are paying more for it.

Recently, I have become the focus of some criticism for my use of the Qu'ran for my ceremonial swearing in. Let me be clear: I am going to be sworn into office like all Members of Congress. I am going to swear to uphold the United States Constitution. We seem to have lost the political vision of our founding document—a vision of inclusion, tolerance and generosity.

I do not blame my critics for subscribing to a politics of scarcity and intolerance. However, I believe we all must project a new politics of generosity and inclusion. This is the vision of the diverse coalition in my congressional district. My constituents in Minnesota elected me to fight for a new politics in which a loving Nation guarantees health care for all of its people; a new politics in which executive pay may not skyrocket while workers do not have enough to care for their families. I was elected to articulate a new politics in which no one is cut out of the American dream, not immigrants, not gays, not poor people, not even a Muslim committed to serve his Nation.

TRIBUTE TO CATHOLIC SCHOOLS
WEEK

HON. W. TODD AKIN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 2007

Mr. AKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Catholic Schools Week.

The Nation's nearly 8,000 Catholic schools will celebrate Catholic Schools Week January 28 through February 3. Catholic schools have made many significant contributions to the education of our Nation's children.

Catholic schools have a longstanding and proud tradition in the Archdiocese of St. Louis. The percentage of Catholic families who choose Catholic schools for their children here is among the highest in the country. There are about 51,000 students enrolled in our Catholic elementary and high schools. Catholic schools foster an atmosphere of mutual respect. Students learn to value God, themselves, and others.

Today I would also like to recognize and commend our Catholic educators who are committed to a living faith community founded on the Catholic tradition of academic excellence and enriching the lives of the children they teach spiritually, academically and socially.

I strongly support the goals of Catholic Schools Week 2007 and laud their efforts to produce students dedicated to their faith, families, and values.

CELEBRATING BETTY NIXON'S
PIONEERING CAREER OF SERVICE
TO HER COMMUNITY

HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 2007

Mr. COOPER. Madam Speaker, today I rise on behalf of the Tennessee delegation, in particular Mr. COHEN, Mr. DAVIS, Mr. GORDON, and Mr. TANNER, to pay tribute to a lifelong activist and community servant, Betty C. Nixon, upon the occasion of her retirement from Vanderbilt University. Betty's last 17 years have been spent building bridges between Vanderbilt and the Nashville community, firmly connecting this institution to the city she loves, and yet this work represents only a small sliver of her service to her fellow citizens.

Betty's ties to Nashville run deep. She grew up there, graduating from Hillsboro High School in 1954 and heading to Texas, where she would graduate from Southern Methodist University in 1958. Most people would rest or retire after teaching high school in Alabama for the decade of the 1960s, but not Betty. By 1975, she had been elected to her first of three terms in the Metropolitan Council of Nashville and Davidson County and was serving as deputy press secretary for Tennessee Governor Ray Blanton. It was only the beginning of her public service.

In 1982, the same year she graduated from the Vanderbilt Owen Graduate School of Management, Betty became the first woman to chair the Metro Council Budget Committee. Two years later, she managed the statewide political campaign for Walter Mondale and Geraldine Ferraro, and four years after that, she managed James R. Sasser's successful bid for the U.S. Senate. Along the way, Betty ran for mayor in 1987 and 1991, and once again she blazed a trail: Betty was the first woman to run for mayor in Nashville's history.

Like many civic-minded individuals, Betty moved to Washington, but after a year of professional service to the U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Intergovernmental Relations,

she returned to the community that she loved. From 1990 until 2007, Vanderbilt has benefited from her steady service, and the University knows it. In many ways, Betty defined both her role at the school and the school's role in the community; she retired as Assistant Vice Chancellor for Community, Neighborhood and Government Relations and leaves as her legacy an institution that fully and conscientiously participates in its community. And Vanderbilt has immortalized her by dedicating the Betty C. Nixon Center for Community Connections in her honor.

Betty's ceaseless service to Nashville government and nonprofit organizations belies the limited number of hours in a day. Oasis Center, Nashville Electric Service, Tennessee State University Business Incubation Center, Bill Wilkerson Hearing and Speech Center, Davidson County Election Commission, Nashville Women's Breakfast Club, United Way, Project PENCIL, West End United Methodist Church, Citizen's Bank, Youth Encouragement Services, Tennessee Women's Political Caucus, YMCA Black Achievers, Rochelle Center, League for the Hard of Hearing, Alcohol and Drug Council of Middle Tennessee, WIN—these groups and many others have all benefited from Betty's skill, charm, and grace. She has been honored as a YWCA Woman of Achievement and has received the prestigious Athena Award.

Madam Speaker, Nashville is a stronger, more vibrant community because of Betty Nixon's commitment to improving the lives of those around her. Today I rise to pay tribute to her legacy, express our Nation's gratitude for her service, and wish her many more years of contented engagement with a city that has been forever changed by her efforts.

NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE: CELEBRATING JOE HARDY ON HIS 84TH BIRTHDAY

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 2007

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to highlight an American success story, an inspirational Pennsylvanian and a great American, Joe Hardy, III. Joe Hardy is the embodiment of the idea that, as Winston Churchill said, "We make a living by what we get and we make a life by what we give." This month marks Joe Hardy's 84th birthday and it is only right that his achievements in business and his contributions to society be celebrated in this, the people's House.

Joe Hardy is perhaps best known as the founder of 84 Lumber, the largest privately owned building materials supplier to professional contractors in America. But he is much more than this. He is a self-made man, a civic leader and a great philanthropist. He is the embodiment of the American Dream and his story continues to encourage those around him.

With 84 Lumber, Joe Hardy reached a level in business that thousands of smaller entrepreneurs aspire to reach for themselves. And like many Americans just starting out in the world of business, Joe Hardy did not inherit his success; he built it from the ground up. His is a true American success story, a story that is alive and well today.

When Joe Hardy graduated from the University of Pittsburgh with a degree in engineering he joined his family's jewelry company. He demonstrated his business acumen early, and quickly became the company's best salesman. But Joe Hardy wanted to make his own name in the business world, so in 1952, with his own savings and the help of some friends, he opened a cash-and-carry lumber yard for contractors in the town of Eighty-Four, Pennsylvania. In 1956 he changed his company's name from Green Hills Lumber to 84 Lumber and the rest, as they say, is history.

84 Lumber grew quickly, reaching \$84 million in sales in 1971 and \$1 billion in sales in 1996. As his company and his fortune grew, Joe Hardy began to give back to the communities that had given him the chance to succeed. In 1987, he bought the Nemaacolin Resort in a bankruptcy sale and turned it into a major economic draw and tourist destination for Western Pennsylvania.

He brought a PGA tournament to the world class Nemaacolin Resort that not only drew attention to the area, but raised money for worthy causes. The list of philanthropic achievements in this area is long, but a few examples stand out.

Over the past 15 years, Joe Hardy's 84 Lumber Golf Tournaments have raised over \$1 million for the Westmoreland-Fayette Boy Scout Council. He organized a PGA Tour event from 2003 to 2006 that raised more than \$6 million for local charities and \$1.3 million for Hurricane Katrina relief. Additionally, through his long collaboration with Habitat for Humanity, Joe Hardy enabled the funding and construction of 50 homes along the hurricane ravaged Gulf Coast.

But his philanthropy does not end there. In 1990, Joe Hardy gave a grant to Washington and Jefferson College to start an Entrepreneurial Spirit Studies Program as well as a scholarship fund its participation. This celebrated program continues to train tomorrow's business leaders today.

In addition to philanthropy, Joe Hardy is also civically engaged. He continues to serve as a County Commissioner for Fayette County Pennsylvania and personally invested his own money into the revitalization of Uniontown, the hometown of General George C. Marshall.

The list of Joe Hardy's accomplishments is simply too long to cover here. However, to the people of Fayette County, the contributions he has made to their lives are evident everyday. Whether you walk down the streets of a revitalized Uniontown, enjoy a jump in business due to the Nemaacolin Woodlands Resort, or build your new house with 84 Lumber products, Joe Hardy's impact is there.

I want to wish Joe Hardy a happy 84th birthday and thank him for all he has done throughout his life. With his achievements and outlook on life, I am sure we will see many more successes in the years ahead.

HONORING THE CAREER OF BILL SMITH

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 2007

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the banking ca-

reer of Bill Smith, who, as he puts it, started out as an errand runner and left as chairman of the board.

Bill began working for the Bank of Commerce in Woodbury, Tennessee, in 1950. At the time, there were five other employees working at the bank on the west side of the Cannon County Square. He began as a runner and went on to fill many other positions at the bank, including using a pen and ledger to keep the balance of the entire bank.

In 1954, the bank moved to its current location on the north side of the square, and Bill continued moving up. In 1964, an addition was added to the bank, and Bill earned the title of vice president.

In 1967, the Bank of Commerce was sold to Third National Bank, and Bill became president. Another addition to the Woodbury branch was added in 1982. Under Bill's leadership, the Bank of Commerce sponsored the Cannon County Good Ole Days for 25 years and started the annual Red Apple Days in Auburtnow. Bank branches were built and obtained in the Edgefield community and in Auburtnow.

When the bank sold in the early 1980s, it had grown to about 50 full-time and 20 part-time employees. The bank sold again in 1991 to Regions, and Bill's son, Steve, who had begun working for the bank while attending Middle Tennessee State University, became president. Bill became chairman of the board until he retired from the banking industry on August 31, 2005.

In his so-called retirement, Bill has been helping his son, Mike, with their family business, Smith Funeral Home, and managing his family farm. He is an active member of the Church of Christ.

Christine Dillon, who has worked with Bill since 1951, both at the bank and the funeral home, says Bill is described by friends as kind, friendly, a good Christian and a great marketing person. He is much loved by his friends and former banking colleagues. I congratulate Bill on his retirement, and I wish him many years of happiness.

INTRODUCTION OF THE HAITIAN PROTECTION ACT OF 2007

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 2007

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Haitian Protection Act of 2007.

This important piece of legislation would designate Haitian nationals as eligible for Temporary Protected Status (TPS).

The creation of TPS was intended to serve as the statutory embodiment of safe haven for those who are fleeing—or reluctant to return to—a potentially dangerous situation in their country of origin.

According to section 244A of the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1990, TPS may be granted when: there is ongoing armed conflict posing a serious threat to personal safety; it is requested by a foreign state that temporarily cannot handle the return of nationals due to environmental disaster; or extraordinary and temporary conditions in a foreign state exist which prevent aliens from returning.

Haiti meets all three of these requirements for designation; and yet, not once have Haitian nationals qualified for TPS.

Madam Speaker, there are currently nine countries that are protected under the TPS provision: Nicaragua, Honduras, El Salvador, Burundi, Somalia, Sudan, and Liberia. Within the past year, all nine countries have obtained status renewal for an additional twelve months because it has been determined by the Department of Homeland Security that the country in question is unable to handle the return of its nationals due to varying circumstances.

Last year, during the 109th Congress, I wrote to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) regarding the unfair treatment of Haitian nationals by current U.S. Immigration policies.

In response to my letter, DHS stated that before they could make a decision to grant TPS to Haiti, they had to determine whether there was "(1) an ongoing armed conflict within the foreign state posing a serious threat to the personal safety of the country's nationals if returned there; (2) an environmental disaster, such as an earthquake, flood, drought, or epidemic in the state; or (3) extraordinary and temporary conditions in the foreign state that prevent nationals from returning safely."

After assessing the aforementioned factors as they apply to Haiti, DHS has taken the following stance: "Decisions on these requests will be made on a case-by-case basis based on the specific circumstances involved when requested."

Madam Speaker, Haiti's recent political, civil, and governmental crises, as well as the extraordinary and temporary conditions caused by several natural disasters, easily make Haitian nationals currently in the United States eligible for TPS.

Any major storm that hits Florida almost always crashes through Haiti first, taking lives and leaving cities already impoverished from the previous year's storms, further devastated.

Throughout Haiti, vast deforestation leaves the country extremely vulnerable to mudslides from heavy rains. It is now 2007 and Haiti still remains severely devastated by the aftermath of Tropical Storm Jeanne, Hurricane Ivan, and serious floods throughout the region that occurred in 2004. The loss of life in Haiti is all but too common, and unfortunately overlooked, when natural disasters whip through the region.

The death toll that resulted from the combination of these natural disasters reached over 7,500. In addition, an estimated 250,000 people were left homeless across the country and at least 4,000 homes were destroyed, with thousands more damaged as a result of the storm.

The Haitian government's ability to provide basic governmental services—clean water, education, passable roads and basic healthcare—is still severely compromised by these natural disasters. Repatriating Haitians at this time imposes an additional burden on government resources that are already stretched too thin.

Concerning stability and overall safety, Haiti is still in dire need of an adequate policing force to maintain order and halt the escalation in kidnappings that are plaguing the nation.

As of January 2007, the Department of State continues to advise Americans that current conditions in Haiti make it unsafe to travel due to the potential for looting, the possibility

of random violent crime, and the serious threat of kidnapping for ransom. The warning goes on to state that more than 50 American citizens, including children, have been kidnapped over the past year.

Madam Speaker, if it is unsafe for our citizens to travel to Haiti, then those same conditions should make it much too dangerous and inappropriate to forcibly repatriate Haitians at this time. It is unfortunate and appalling that our current immigration policies hold such harmful double standards.

I want to make it very clear that I acknowledge and heartily congratulate Haiti's shift toward recovery, as seen by the successful democratic elections held throughout 2006.

However, President Préval's nascent democratic government still faces immense challenges in regards to rebuilding Haiti's police and judicial institutions to achieve the fair and prompt tackling of the ongoing political and criminal violence.

Most recently there has been a sharp increase in common crime, especially kidnappings which continue to plague the capital and other cities and regions.

The absence of security and failure of police and the judicial system to function effectively only makes matters worse.

In addition to safety and human rights considerations, halting the deportation of Haitians is also an economic matter.

Under the law, TPS beneficiaries are eligible to obtain work authorization permits. The ability for Haitian Nationals to legally work in the United States put them in a position to contribute to their country's reform and development until such time it is safe for their return to Haiti.

Madam Speaker, the Haitian Diaspora has always played a pivotal role in assisting Haiti. It is widely known that Haitians residing in the United States often work three jobs to send money back to Haiti each month. Many Haitians in the United States often send remittances to support family members, and others travel home to lend their expertise toward rebuilding and humanitarian efforts.

Designating Haiti under TPS status would preserve and increase remittances—over a billion dollars a year—from the Haitian Diaspora to relatives and communities in Haiti that are key for welfare, survival, and recovery.

Haiti is more dependent than any other country on remittances—nearly a billion dollars a year—sent home by Haitians in the United States. Remittances to Haiti far exceed foreign aid.

Many Haitian Nationals in the United States who previously sustained relatives in Haiti through remittances, are being deported, further depriving Haiti of an important source of financial aid that is well-positioned to assist when based here in the United States.

Madam Speaker, by refusing to give Haiti the TPS designation, our inequitable immigration policies continue to send a clear message:

The safety of Haitian lives is not a priority compared to a Honduran, Liberian or Sudanese life.

We must act to change this perception. Our immigration policies have to change; they must reflect fairness and treat Haitians equally to Nicaraguans, Hondurans, and Salvadorans whose deportations are suspended and who are allowed to work and support their families back home.

Madam Speaker, Haiti is making great strides to recover and rebuild. We cannot reward their efforts by kicking this country, and its people, down when they are doing everything possible to bring their country out of chaos and destruction.

The election of President Préval in February 2006, and the election shortly thereafter of a national legislature which promptly confirmed his cabinet nominees, along with the broad internal and international support which this new democratic government enjoys, makes it imperative that the United States seize every current opportunity to assist that government to succeed.

Many in Haiti, as well as the Haitian Diaspora worldwide, need us to reach beyond what has been done before and demand for more.

The Haitian Protection Act of 2007 is necessary to achieve fundamental fairness in our treatment of Haitian immigrants and remedy the accurate and widespread perception that U.S. policy has discriminated against them.

Madam Speaker, we cannot miss this opportunity to help Haiti stabilize its economy, rebuild its political and economic institutions, and provide a future of hope for Haiti's people.

I ask my colleagues to support this legislation and urge the House Leadership to bring it swiftly to the House floor for consideration.

THE CURRENT HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN CHINA

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 2007

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I would like to call to the attention of the House the following assessment of the current human rights situation in China. Harry Wu, a renowned human rights activist who survived 19 years in China's notorious laogai labor camps, has detailed in this assessment the current level of human rights abuses by China's brutal dictatorship.

As we approach the 2008 Olympics in Beijing, and China continues to grow as an economic and political powerhouse, we must remind ourselves of China's abusive and oppressive treatment of innocent civilians, and fight against the tyranny of the communist regime in Beijing.

THE CURRENT HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN CHINA, JANUARY 2007

(By Harry Wu)

The People's Republic of China (PRC) continues to awe the world with its rapid economic development attracting foreign investment from all over the world. Recently, China's power and influence in international politics has also grown. China has been extolled for taking the lead in negotiations with North Korea, and the world looks forward to the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing. However the international community has overlooked the most important fact—the Chinese government is still a ruthless dictatorship.

China may be involved in the Six-Party talks with North Korea but it is still the nation's closest ally and biggest supplier. China is embracing capitalism but that does not equal freedom and democracy. This memo provides a brief description of human rights violations in China that are occurring

on a large scale. China's brutal system of forced labor camps is thriving and remains a tool for repression and economic profit. Religious freedom is nonexistent without government approval, and independent trade unions are forbidden. The government refuses to reveal how many prisoners are executed each year, and organs are harvested from prisoners for money. Women and their families are being persecuted for violating the national one-child policy, and are subject to forced abortions and sterilization, detention and other punishments. Internet access is censored and cyber-dissidents are frequently monitored and arrested with the help of American companies. The number of political prisoners is on the rise as the Chinese people speak out against freedom of speech, press, and religion, the one-child policy, labor conditions, and property rights.

The truth is that a more democratic and free China that respects human rights and the rule of law would lead to a more stable region, and ultimately would be better for US interests and national security.

THE LAOGAI SYSTEM

The Laogai is a vast system of prison camps in the PRC consisting of a network of more than 1,045 prisons, labor camps, and mental institutions. The fundamental role of the Laogai is the same as it was during Chairman Mao Zedong's reign—reform through labor. Labor camps are used as a mechanism to suppress political dissent, human rights activists, religious and spiritual believers, ethnic minorities, and common law offenders. The UN Special Rapporteur on Torture has confirmed that prisoners are frequently tortured to extract false confessions to be used to convict in court.

Although some judicial reforms have been made, China's legal system is still rule by law not rule of law. The administrative detention system that the rest of the world has deemed a violation of international law, is still used. Laojiao (re-education through labor) allows individuals to be held for up to 3 years without legal proceedings. Anyone who speaks out against the Chinese Communist Party is falsely arrested and charged with the vague crimes of "endangering state security" or "revealing state secrets", and 99 percent of those who are charged with these crimes are convicted.

The Laogai is an integral sector of the PRC's export economy and its forced labor products are frequently sold in U.S., European and world markets. Despite the 1992 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) safeguarding against the export of prison labor goods between the U.S. and China, little has been done to enforce this policy. U.S. customs stated that it could not conduct independent investigations in China because the Chinese government refuses to comply. Yet the U.S. has done nothing to encourage compliance. American businesses often claim to be unaware that their subcontractors are using prison labor, but this should no longer be an excuse.

RELIGION

The PRC does not permit religious freedom. Roman Catholicism is still outlawed and the Chinese government continues to defy the Vatican by ordaining church officials without its permission. In late November 2006 the Chinese Patriotic Catholic Association ordained Bishop Wang in Jiangsu province, the third incident of this kind in a year. The government controls all religious activities and any new groups must apply for permission to practice and to publish literature. The spiritual practice of Falun gong is banned as a cult. Falun Gong followers and underground "house church" Christians are persecuted daily. They are put under house arrest, detained without public trial, and imprisoned and tortured for their beliefs

under the auspices of various government campaigns. The Uyghur Muslim minority in Xinjiang province has been targeted and arrested according to an "anti-terrorism" campaign, while Tibetans monks and nuns have been forced to sign declarations denouncing the Dalai Lama as a dangerous separatist or face arrest according to a "patriotic education" campaign.

TRADE UNIONS

The PRC outlaws all independent trade unions, forcing its workers to join the statesponsored All China Federation Trade Union (ACFTU), which by international standards is useless and only serves the Communist Party's needs. Most recently Walmart, a company that has opened 62 stores in China, capitulated to ACFTU demands and agreed to let the union set up branches in its stores. This fact is alarming because Walmart does not allow its employees to unionize in any other country. This is a vivid example that disproves the common theory that economic development is a catalyst for democratization in China. In contrast, the more companies that cooperate with the Communist Party's demands, such as Walmart, Cisco, Google, and Yahoo, the more the totalitarian regime is strengthened.

DEATH PENALTY AND ORGAN HARVESTING

China executes anywhere from 3,500–10,000 people per year, more than the combined total of all the countries in the entire world. The true number is impossible to ascertain because this information is not made public, making it difficult for NGOs such as Amnesty International to keep records.

After decades of organ harvesting, the PRC's Vice Minister of Health, Mr. Huang Jiefu, in November 2005 officially admitted that organs are taken from executed prisoners, but still insists that the prisoner or his family always gives informed consent. However, this usually never occurs. Families are often not notified when their relative will be executed and afterwards they are given the cremated remains to cover up any signs of organ removal, or are not given the body at all. Whether or not consent is actually given by the prisoner is irrelevant because even if death row prisoners give permission they are coerced and threatened by prison officials to comply. Although government legislation to regulate organ trade went into force in July 2006 prisoners' organs are still sold to wealthy Chinese nationals and foreigners with the profits going directly to the Chinese government. Multi-lingual websites boast about the ease of receiving an organ transplant in China.

POPULATION CONTROL

The PRC government continues to implement the inhumane one-child policy that began in 1976. No other country has such a draconian family planning policy that is offensive to all religions and all cultural backgrounds, and affects all of China's 1.3 billion members. Despite other social reforms, China's population policy still does not conform to international human rights standards. With few exceptions, only married couples that obtain pre-approval, i.e. a birth permit, may legally have a child even if it is their first child. A majority of Chinese women are required to use intrauterine devices (IUDs), and in villages women's menstrual cycles are monitored. Violators, if discovered to be pregnant, are coerced into having an abortion and to undergo sterilization. Occasionally the men are sterilized as well. Doctors who do not perform IUD insertion or sterilization, or who fake these operations, are jailed. Family members of violators are often imprisoned if they do not reveal their relative's whereabouts. Despite relaxation of certain aspects of China's family planning regulations, enforcement of the one-child policy continues to be coercive.

INTERNET CENSORSHIP

The crackdown of Internet dissidents remains widespread. American software companies such as Cisco, Microsoft, Google, and Yahoo continue to cooperate with the Chinese government to censor Internet use. These companies have agreed to restrict access to certain websites and terms, and to reveal the identities of users. As a result of these policies, according to Amnesty International at least 57 people have been arrested for discussing democracy on the Internet. Journalist Shi Tao was sentenced to 10 years in prison for writing an e-mail on Yahoo to a China pro-democracy group in the U.S. Cisco in particular has funded over us \$700 million telecom ventures in China including selling software to the Chinese police who use it to arrest dissenters.

Directly after the Tiananmen Square massacre in 1989, the US government banned the export of crime control and detection products to China, such as guns and handcuffs. However these sanctions are out of date. Today these restrictions must be expanded to include software and technology products that are used to censor the Internet.

DISSIDENTS AND POLITICAL PRISONERS

Human rights activists in China are frequently imprisoned for various reasons. Some recent examples include Sun Xiaodi, who has petitioned authorities to stop radioactive contamination in Gansu province. Three Gorges activist Fu Xiancai who was assaulted and paralyzed after being questioned at a police station, numerous journalists such as New York Times researcher Zhao Yan, and religious practitioners and ethnic minorities. Not only are dissidents imprisoned for criticizing China's totalitarian regime, but the lawyers who defend them are being persecuted as well. For instance blind lawyer Chen Guangcheng is imprisoned for defending victims of forced abortions and sterilizations, as is Gao Zhisheng for sending a letter to the government condemning its practices. Moreover, these cases are only the ones of which the international community is aware; the reality is that unknown numbers are currently being harassed, arrested, tortured and imprisoned. The Chinese government will continue to quell political and civil unrest to maintain power and control.

CONCLUSION

The U.S. Congress should send a strong signal to the Chinese government that the world will not accept the human rights violations that are occurring in China. The Chinese people deserve the fundamental rights to a just legal system, to practice religion, to unionize, to plan their families, and to freely express themselves. While economic improvements have been made, China continues to deny its people dignity and basic rights. The U.S. must not remain silent any longer.

HONORING DR. MARGARET ANN HARRISON HILL FOR 40 YEARS OF ACHIEVEMENTS IN EDUCATION

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 2007

Mr. LEWIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today in order to recognize Dr. Margaret

Ann Harrison Hill, an esteemed educator and public servant who is retiring after 40 years of top level service. I am honored to pay tribute to this outstanding community leader, and hope that my colleagues will join me in recognizing her achievements.

As many of my colleagues know, resources are essential tools for properly educating students. Dr. Hill understands this necessity, and throughout her career has served to increase the amount of materials available to teachers nationwide. As project director of the SCORE online program, Dr. Hill has overseen the creation of a database of educational resources that serves a wide range of teachers across the country. For 5 years Dr. Hill codirected Footsteps to Freedom, a project which aids educators in developing materials that inculcate study of the Underground Railroad into classroom curriculum. She has served as the curriculum coordinator for the San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools, developing and implementing training programs that expand the leadership and instruction capacity of San Bernardino educators.

The "We the People Program" has been a tremendous success in my district under the leadership of Dr. Hill. Under the program, Dr. Hill has coordinated civic education training programs, and has expanded student knowledge of the political process by facilitating mock congressional hearings on constitutional issues. Dr. Hill has contributed her writing to several prominent publications, and has developed and written grant proposals that have helped to secure funding for important educational programs. She has served on countless educational advisory and planning boards and has remained a sought-after presenter at educational conferences in California and throughout the Nation.

Dr. Hill's commitment to social studies education has not gone unnoticed. Throughout her years in teaching, she has been the recipient of several awards. In 2001, Dr. Hill was chosen to receive the Hilda Taba Award for Outstanding History-Social Science Leadership in California, the highest honor presented by the California Council for the Social Studies. Dr. Hill has also been presented with awards from her own community, being named Outstanding Educator in Social Studies by the Inland Empire Council, and receiving the Service Award from the Inland Empire Consortium for International Studies.

Madam Speaker, Dr. Hill's retirement will undoubtedly leave San Bernardino County with a difficult void to fill. Her exemplary commitment to her students and peers is seldom seen, and I take great pleasure in knowing that many of the children residing in my district have been fortunate enough to learn from Dr. Hill. It is with honor that I congratulate Dr. Hill on her achievements, and wish her well in her future endeavors.

MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG PRICE NEGOTIATION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 12, 2007

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following for the RECORD for H.R. 4.

AMERICAN DIABETES ASSOCIATION,
Alexandria, VA, Jan 12, 2007.

Hon. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE CAPITO: On behalf of the 20.8 million adults and children living with diabetes in the United States, we write to let you know that the American Diabetes Association remains neutral on the issue of requiring the Department of Health and Human Services to negotiate for lower drug prices.

We understand that leading up to the debate on the Medicare Prescription Drug Price Negotiation Act of 2007 (H.R. 4) your office received a letter from one of the Association's local offices asking that you vote against H.R. 4. While we respect your right to have read the letter you received on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives on January 12, 2007, we must retract the opposition offered in that letter. The structure of our Association is one in which all policy positions come out of the National Office and the letter you received was crafted in error. With regard to H.R. 4, the Association took no formal position.

Please know that the availability and cost of medications is of great importance to the Association. However, we have historically not been involved to the level of supporting or opposing specific strategies through which to lower prices or make medications available. When Part D was proposed and debated, for example, we remained neutral on the actual market-based construct of the program.

Thank you for your understanding of this situation. And, again please accept our apologies for the confusion. If you have any questions or would like to further discuss our position, please have your staff contact Andrea LaVeccia, Associate Manager of Government Affairs and Advocacy at (703) 253-2323.

Sincerely,

JAMES SCHLICHT,
Executive Vice President,
Government Affairs & Advocacy.

FAIR MINIMUM WAGE ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY SUTTON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 10, 2007

Ms. SUTTON. Mr. Speaker, one of the greatest measures of our success as elected representatives will be the impact our actions have on the silent majority of working class poor in America.

This Congress, to its shame, has ignored these Americans for over a decade now in favor of an embarrassing collection of legislative excess that favored the connected few.

Today, we put an end to it.

During the course of the campaign that ended just a few months ago, I met a woman whose story I have carried with me all the way to Congress.

She was working at the snack bar at the local bowling alley and she was working her heart out.

As she shared her story with me, it became terribly apparent that despite valiant efforts, she was struggling mightily to make ends meet for her family.

This fine woman you see was a single mother who had a teenage daughter at home, a daughter she worried about because she

just had too little time to spend with her because she worked so much.

And this fine woman also had a son who had recently graduated from high school, a son who intended to join the military to serve his country and hopefully find a way to a higher education and a brighter future.

The problem was her son had a medical condition which precluded him from military service. And by the way, as hard as she worked, this fine woman did not have any health insurance.

As this proud woman and mother told me of her struggles to build a future for her family, her exhaustion grew and her strength diminished as she tried to think of a phone number where she could be reached.

You see, this fine woman not only worked at the local bowling alley, she also worked two other jobs where she earned minimum wage.

As she talked, her dilemma was apparent—she worried that her jobs were robbing her of the time her kids needed to spend with her but she knew that she needed to work all three minimum wage jobs just to provide for them.

This is not a choice that any woman or man should have to make and our Congress over the last decade should be ashamed for not helping this fine woman and tens of millions more hard working Americans.

As you can see from this very real and personal story, raising the minimum wage is not about politics, it's about traditional American values, it's about fairness and opportunity, it's about changing the way we treat our working men and women.

It's about paying rent, putting food on the table and paying for our children to go to college.

That is why today's vote to increase the minimum wage is so important, not just for our Nation's working families, not just for that proud woman and mother working at the bowling alley, but for her children, for our future.

Today with Americans supporting us, we start fighting for those who have been for far too long neglected.

IN MEMORY OF KATHERYN
REEVES JEAN

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 2007

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Kathryn Reeves Jean, who passed away January 14, 2007, in Magnolia, Arkansas.

Katheryn Reeves Jean was a pillar of the community of Magnolia and of greater Columbia County for decades. Mrs. Jean was a homemaker and president of Reeves Land and Timber Company. She also served the community in numerous ways, including Chairman of the Columbia County Election Commission, Justice of the Peace for Columbia County and Director of Farmer's Real Estate.

Mrs. Jean was a member of the Jackson Street Church of Christ, Quota Club International and the local and state Republican Party. Mrs. Jean was a former Girl Scout troop leader and a den mother for the Boy Scouts of America. Her dedication to making Magnolia and South Arkansas a better place to live could not have been greater.

My deepest condolences go to her two sons, Hal Jean and Mayor Lane Jean of Magnolia; her sister, Ann Reeves Eddy; and to her 4 grandchildren. Kathryn Reeves Jean will be greatly missed in Magnolia and throughout the state of Arkansas.

INTRODUCTION OF THE TAX CODE TERMINATION ACT

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 2007

Mr. GOODLATTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to re-introduce the "Tax Code Termination Act".

This bi-partisan legislation, which I introduced with my colleague COLLIN PETERSON of Minnesota, and 65 bi-partisan cosponsors, will accomplish two goals. It will abolish the Internal Revenue Code by December 31, 2010, and call on Congress to approve a new Federal tax system by July of the same year.

The fact is our current tax system has spiraled out of control. At a time when Americans devote a total of 7 billion hours each year to comply with the tax code, we need tax simplification. Today's tax code is unfair, discourages savings and investment, and is impossibly complex. The problem is Congress won't act on fundamental tax reform unless it is forced to do so. The Tax Code Termination Act will force Congress to finally debate and address fundamental tax reform.

Once the Tax Code Termination Act becomes law, today's oppressive tax code would survive for only 4 more years, at which time it would expire and be replaced with a new tax code that will be determined by Congress, the President, and the American people. The Tax Code Termination Act will allow us, as a nation, to collectively decide what the new tax system should look like. Having a date-certain to end the current tax code will force the issue to the top of the national agenda, where it will remain until Congress and the President finish writing the new tax law.

The tax code is hopelessly broken and abolishing it is the necessary first step to debating, designing, and adopting a new tax system. Although many questions remain about the best way to reform our tax system, I am certain that if Congress is forced to address the issue we can create a tax code that is simpler, fairer, and better for our economy than the one we are forced to comply with today.

Whichever tax system is adopted, the key ingredients should be: a low rate for all Americans; tax relief for working people; protection of the rights of taxpayers and reduction in tax collection abuses; promotion of savings and investment; and encouragement of economic growth and job creation. Taxes may be unavoidable but they don't have to be unfair and overcomplicated.

Just like other programs that require reauthorization, the tax code must be reviewed to examine whether it is fulfilling its intended purpose and then Congress must make what changes are necessary.

America's future depends on overcoming the handicap of the current tax code. There is a widespread consensus that the current system is broken, and keeping it is not in America's best interest. I urge each of my colleagues to support this important legislation.

MR. BUSH, MEET WALTER JONES

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 2007

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I would like to place the following article written by eminent conservative commentator Patrick Buchanan into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. In this fine op-ed, Mr. Buchanan makes reference to the recent efforts by my colleague and good friend, Rep. WALTER JONES, JR, to derail the march to war with Iran. I am very pleased to have been an original co-sponsor of the legislation referenced by Mr. Buchanan, H.J. Res. 14, which puts forth the very simple idea that if we are going to have a war with Iran we must follow the Constitution. The resolution clarifies the fact that the President shall consult with Congress, and receive specific authorization pursuant to law from Congress, prior to initiating any use of military force against Iran. I hope my colleagues will read this article closely and consider what Mr. Buchanan has written—and what Rep. JONES is trying to do.

JANUARY 16, 2007.

MR. BUSH, MEET WALTER JONES

(By Patrick J. Buchanan)

America is four years into a bloody debacle in Iraq not merely because Bush and Cheney marched us in, or simply because neocon propagandists lied about Saddam's nuclear program and WMD, and Iraqi ties to al-Qaeda, anthrax attacks, and 9/11.

We are there because a Democratic Senate voted to give Bush a blank check for war. Democrats in October 2002 wanted the war vote behind them so they could go home and campaign as pro-war patriots.

And because they did, 3,000 Americans are dead, 25,000 are wounded, perhaps 100,000 Iraqis have lost their lives, 1.6 million have fled, \$400 billion has been lost, and America stands on the precipice of the worst strategic defeat in her history.

Yet, Sens. Clinton, Biden, Kerry, and Edwards—all of whom voted to give Bush his blank check—are now competing to succeed him. And how do they justify what they did?

"If only we had known then what we know now," they plead, "we would never have voted for the war." They are thus confessing to dereliction in the highest duty the Founding Fathers gave Congress. They voted to cede to a president their power to take us to war.

Now they wash their hands of it all and say, "It's Bush's war!"

And now George Bush has another war in mind.

In his Jan. 11 address, Bush said that to defend the "territorial integrity" of Iraq, the United States must address "Iran and Syria."

"These two regimes are allowing terrorists and insurgents to use their territory to move in and out of Iraq. Iran is providing material support for attacks on American troops. We will disrupt the attacks on our forces. We will interrupt the flow of support from Iran and Syria. And we will seek out and destroy the networks providing advanced weaponry and training to our enemies in Iraq."

The city sat bolt upright. If Bush was talking about Iranian agents inside Iraq, he has no need of a second aircraft carrier in the Gulf, nor for those Patriot missiles he is sending to our allies.

But does Bush have the authority to take us to war against Iran?

On ABC last Sunday, National Security Adviser Stephen Hadley, while denying Bush intends to attack Iran, nonetheless did not deny Bush had the authority to escalate the war—right into Iran.

George Stephanopoulos: "So you don't believe you have the authority to go into Iran?"

Stephen Hadley: "I didn't say that. That is another issue. Any time you have questions about crossing international borders, there are legal questions."

Any doubt how Attorney General Gonzales would come down on those "legal questions"? Any doubt how the Supreme Court would rule?

Biden sputters that should Bush attack Iran, a constitutional crisis would ensue.

I don't believe it. If tomorrow Bush took out Iran's nuclear facilities, would a Senate that lacks the courage to cut funds for an unpopular war really impeach him for denying a nuclear capability to Mahmoud Ahmadinejad? Bush's lawyers would make the same case Nixon made for the 1970 "incursion" into Cambodia—and even a Nixon-hating Democratic House did not dare to impeach him for that.

Bush's contempt for Congress is manifest and, frankly, justified.

Asked if Congress could stop him from surging 21,500 troops into Iraq, Bush on 60 Minutes brushed aside Congress as irrelevant.

"I fully understand [the Congress] could try to stop me from doing it. But I've made my decision. And we're going forward." Asked if he had sole authority "to put the troops in there no matter what the Congress wants to do," Bush replied, "In this situation I do, yeah."

Is Congress then impotent, if it does not want war on Iran?

Enter Rep. Walter Jones, Republican of North Carolina.

The day after Bush's threat to Iran, Jones introduced a Joint Resolution, "Concerning the Use of Military Force by the United States Against Iran." Under HJR 14, "Absent a national emergency created by attack by Iran, or a demonstrably imminent attack by Iran, upon the United States, its territories, possessions, or its armed forces, the President shall consult with Congress, and receive specific authorization pursuant to law from Congress, prior to initiating any use of force on Iran."

Jones' resolution further declares, "No provision of law enacted before the date of the enactment of this joint resolution shall be construed to authorize the use of military force by the United States against Iran."

If we are going to war on Iran, Jones is saying, we must follow the Constitution and Congress must authorize it.

If Biden, Kerry, Clinton, and Obama refuse to sign on to the Jones resolution, they will be silently conceding that Bush indeed does have the power to start a war on Iran. And America should pay no further attention to the Democrats' wailing about being misled on the Iraq war.

A TRIBUTE TO REPRESENTATIVE LOUISE WILLIAMS BISHOP

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 2007

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor one of my city's great leaders, Representative Louise Williams Bishop. Representative Bishop, who I am

proud to say represents me in the Pennsylvania General Assembly, is an accomplished legislator who was first elected in 1989. She has demonstrated leadership throughout her entire career. And her activism in cultural, ecclesiastical, civil rights, and political organizations has enriched the lives of every Philadelphian.

Madam Speaker, Louise Williams Bishop is much more than just a legislator. A true servant of God, she has evangelized in the pulpit, in the capitol, and over the airwaves. For four decades, her radio program, "The Louise Williams Show," has been the hallmark of gospel radio. Her excellence in broadcasting has earned her many accolades, including the title "The Queen of Gospel Radio." For so many Philadelphians, Reverend Bishop has been a blessing in their cars and in their living rooms. She has been a lifeline for thousands of shut ins who would otherwise miss their worship experience. Each of them feels that she is his or her personal friend and minister. And, in many ways she is.

Madam Speaker, today, Representative Bishop will host her 20th annual birthday celebration tribute to the late Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. For all the time she has hosted this celebration, I have been proud to call her my representative, my advisor, and my friend. I know that all of my colleagues in the Congress join me in honoring her.

MOURNING THE PASSING OF PRESIDENT GERALD RUDOLPH FORD

SPEECH OF

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2007

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the passing of a great President and American, President Gerald R. Ford.

As I reflect upon the distinguished life and legacy of President Ford, the first things that come to mind are his honesty, integrity, and ability to make the tough decisions for a nation that was fiercely divided by war and recovering from a scandal at the highest level of government. He served with the best interest of America in mind, never losing sight of his faith, family, and his beloved roots in southwest Michigan.

President Ford was truly a Michigan original, and folks throughout our State saw an ordinary man become extraordinary; yet, he always remained our native son. His upbringing in Michigan molded the man that Gerry Ford became—growing up in an environment that encouraged him to pursue his vision of what America should and could be.

I have the great honor and privilege of representing some of the very same folks in southwest Michigan that President Ford did during his time in Congress.

All our hearts go out to Betty and the Ford children: Mike, Jack, Steve, and Susan during this difficult time.

His legacy continues to grow particularly as we see first hand the partisan divisions which divide our country and this Congress. President Ford was one that always put his country first and his party second.

President Ford was a remarkable man and an outstanding representative of the Wolverine

State. Our Nation was blessed to have such a compassionate and steadfast leader and he will forever remain in our memory.

Farewell to our President. Go Blue.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIVE AMERICAN METHAMPHETAMINE ENFORCEMENT AND TREATMENT ACT OF 2007

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 2007

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Native American Methamphetamine Enforcement and Treatment Act of 2007.

Last year, Congress passed the Combat Methamphetamine Epidemic Act of 2005 as part of the reauthorization of the USA PATRIOT Act. Included in the bill were provisions that authorized funding for three important grant programs—the COPS Hot Spots Program, the Drug-Endangered Children Program, and the Pregnant and Parenting Women Offenders Program.

The Hot Spots Program specifically provides funding for a broad range of initiatives designed to assist State and local law enforcement in undertaking antimethamphetamine initiatives. The Drug-Endangered Children Grant Program provides comprehensive services to assist children who live in a home where meth has been used, manufactured, and sold. The Pregnant and Parenting Women Offenders Grant Program is designed to facilitate cooperation between the criminal justice, child welfare, and substance abuse systems in order to reduce the use of drugs by pregnant women and those with dependant children.

Unfortunately, tribal governments were unintentionally left out as possible applicants for the Hot Spots and Drug-Endangered Children Programs. The legislation I am introducing today seeks to rectify this by ensuring that, consistent with tribal sovereignty, tribes can apply for these grants, just as States can. Additionally, while tribes were included as eligible applicants for the Pregnant and Parenting Women Offenders Grant Program, clarifying language is needed to ensure there is ample coordination with tribal service providers. This legislation works to achieve this coordination.

In 2005, the Drug Enforcement Administration and State and local law enforcement officials counted 12,484 Clandestine Laboratory Incidents in 48 States. In New Mexico alone, the State Department of Public Safety Narcotics Section handled over 400 cases involving meth in 2004. While this is disturbing enough, the situation can be worse in Native American communities. In studies of "past year methamphetamine use," Native communities have the highest use rates—more than double the use rate of other ethnicities. Additionally, when the Bureau of Indian Affairs surveyed tribes about law enforcement, more than 70 percent said that meth is the drug that poses the greatest threat to their reservation. It is evident that more needs to be done to stop the manufacturing and use of meth.

As a co-vice chair of the Congressional Native American Caucus and a member of the Congressional Caucus to Fight and Control Methamphetamine, I am uniquely aware of the

substantial obstacles our criminal justice, child welfare, and substance abuse systems face in the fight against meth. As such, I am pleased to introduce this legislation today and wish to thank original cosponsor Representative DALE KILDEE for his support. Mr. KILDEE has worked diligently on this matter and continues to be a strong advocate for all Native American issues. I urge my colleagues to join us in helping to give Native American communities the resources they need to combat this epidemic, by cosponsoring this bill.

TRIBUTE TO JOHNSON COUNTY LIBRARIAN MONA CARMACK

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 2007

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to salute Johnson County Librarian Mona Carmack, who is retiring later this month, and will be honored on January 25, at the Overland Park Sheraton Hotel. Because of scheduled votes in Congress that evening, I will be unable to attend, but want to recognize her today. It is only fitting that the Library of Congress will contain a tribute to an outstanding librarian of our era.

Johnson County is the fastest growing county in Kansas. During her 18 years of exemplary professional service to our citizens, Mona oversaw the expansion of the library system with six new branches, and significant improvements at three others. The library system's holdings increased from nearly 565,000 to 1.5 million during her tenure, and the operating budget increased from \$5 million to \$21.6 million.

Most amazing of all, during that time, the circulation per capita increased from 6.1 to 16.4, and the percentage of the county's population registered as library users increased from 72 percent to 84 percent. Our county libraries are beautiful, airy, modern facilities, packed with excellent resources, and significantly contribute to the outstanding quality of life that Johnson Countians enjoy.

Mona and her staff have received numerous national library awards, including being named a Finalist in the Innovations in American Government competition in 1998, and culminating in a National Award from the Institute of Museum and Library Services in 2005. Mona was honored by her peers with 2002 awards from the Kansas Library Association and the Mountain Plains Library Association.

Like any good librarian, the issue dearest to Mona's heart is literacy. Literacy is emphasized in children's programming, and the Library, in cooperation with the Johnson County Community College, operates an adult literacy program. Mona also serves on metropolitan literacy organizations, such as the Literacy Kansas City Board and the Metropolitan Alliance for Adult Learning.

After I took office in 1999, Mona was kind enough to give me a tour and briefing of the library. My office has often used the outstanding facilities of the Johnson County libraries to host community office hours with my constituents.

Madam Speaker, we all wish Mona the very best for the next chapter of her life, and hope that she will continue to contribute her leadership and knowledge to our area.

HONORING FIRE CHIEF HOWARD D.
"JACK" FRASER, NORWICH,
VERMONT

HON. PETER WELCH

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 2007

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I stand here before you today to celebrate the birthday of a great Vermonter, public servant, and friend.

For more than 50 years Jack Fraser has made public service his way of life. Jack first joined the Norwich Fire Department in 1955. At the time, Jack was simultaneously enrolled at the University of Vermont and participating in the ROTC program. When he graduated in 1960, Jack was commissioned as an officer in the United States Army.

Always one to take on the toughest challenges, Jack became an Army Ranger and served two tours of duty in Vietnam. He continued in the military after he returned home, teaching as an ROTC instructor at the University of Vermont. He retired from the US Army Reserve in 1990 with the rank of Colonel, having served his country for 35 years.

Meanwhile, Jack had continued his public service in the Norwich, Vermont Fire Department, becoming Fire Chief in 1995. Under the leadership of Chief Fraser, the Department modernized and improved its fire apparatus, its training equipment, its rural fire protection, and its rescue operations. Jack developed particular expertise in the field of hazardous materials, developing Norwich's first hazardous materials response plan. Largely as a result of his work, the town of Norwich earned one of the highest public protection classification rates in Vermont.

Jack officially retired from his civic duties on December 31, 2006. Please join me today in thanking Jack Fraser for all he has done for his town, his country, and the state of Vermont.

MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG PRICE NEGOTIATION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 12, 2007

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 4 and urge my colleagues to support the passage of this legislation that will, I believe, provide lower drug prices for millions of Medicare beneficiaries.

We all know that the costs of prescriptions are a huge burden on Americans throughout the country. That is why during past sessions of Congress I have cosponsored legislation to grant the HHS Secretary the authority to negotiate prescription drug prices. Never before, however, have we been this close to making the negotiating authority a reality. No one could be happier about this than the American people. In a recent poll 92 percent stated that they support the proposal to grant HHS negotiating authority.

Madam Speaker, there is good reason for this overwhelming support of negotiating authority. Pharmaceutical companies continue to rake in millions while consumers are forced to face the high prices of their product. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important legislation and take an important step towards providing price relief for millions of Medicare beneficiaries.

GENERAL MOTORS' AURA NAMED "CAR OF THE YEAR"

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 2007

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I join with the staff of General Motors' Fairfax plant in Kansas City, Kansas, in celebrating the recent designation of GM's Aura model car as "North American Car of the Year" at the recent North American International Auto Show. The Aura is manufactured exclusively at the Fairfax plant, which is located in Kansas's Third Congressional District. The Aura's win was the first time GM had won car of the year since the Corvette won in 1998. And to win the award, it had to beat out the redesigned Toyota Camry, the nation's best-selling car model, which had just won the car of the year honors from Motor Trend, as well as the Honda Fit, the subcompact car recently introduced to the U.S. market. As Karl Brauer, editor-in-chief of Edmunds.com and one of 49 jurors voting for the award, was quoted as saying by CNN, "It's an undeniable statement about where Saturn has gotten," he said. "You could say it's long overdue, but they are now producing a competitive vehicle in a very competitive class."

Madam Speaker, in recognition of this outstanding achievement, I am placing in the Congressional Record recent Kansas City Star coverage of this well-deserved designation, and I know that you and the entire House of Representatives join with me in recognizing the designation of the Aura as "Car of the Year".

[From the Kansas City Star, Jan. 9, 2007]

GM AURA IS "CAR OF THE YEAR"

(By Randolph Heaster)

A group of automotive journalists named the Saturn Aura "North American Car of the Year" at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit.

The news that the Saturn Aura won a car of the year award was a boost for the General Motors Corp.'s Fairfax plant, the exclusive maker of the new model.

The Aura was named "North American Car of the Year" by a group of 49 automotive journalists from the U.S. and Canada at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit.

The car was launched last August at the Fairfax plant, which employs nearly 3,000.

"Our employees are known for their commitment to quality and teamwork," said Paul Marr, manager of the Fairfax plant. "This recognition is a win for Fairfax Assembly and our community as we strive to keep jobs in Kansas City."

Union officials at the Fairfax plant could not be reached Monday. However, Jeff Man-

ning, president of United Auto Workers Local 31, stated frequently during Aura's launch that the employees' goal was for it to receive car-of-the-year honors.

The Aura is the second locally made vehicle to receive such a recognition this decade. The F-150 pickup, made at Ford Motor Co.'s Claycomo plant, was named "Truck of the Year" by Motor Trend magazine for 2004.

The recognition is a shot in the arm for GM, which has been struggling since higher fuel prices slowed sales of pickup trucks and sport utility vehicles. Industry analysts have stated that GM and the other domestic automakers must better compete against Japanese auto companies in the midsize passenger-car market.

GM hopes that this week's auto show will create some buzz for the new Chevrolet Malibu, which will be unveiled for the first time. The Fairfax plant, which builds the current Malibu, will begin producing the redesigned 2008 Malibu in October.

The Fairfax plant produced 39,699 Auras in 2006. More than 5,800 were sold last month.

The auto show also gave GM's new Chevrolet Silverado the award for truck of the year.

TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF JOSEPH MACKEY

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 2007

Mr. CAPUANO. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor and reflect on the life of Mr. Joseph Mackey, a dedicated public servant who was committed to improving the world around him in large and small ways. Joe was born in Somerville, Massachusetts, and attended Somerville High School. He went on to graduate cum laude from Harvard University and later earned his J.D. from the University of Virginia. In 1979, Joe returned to his roots and was elected an alderman for the city of Somerville.

In 1984, Joe began representing his hometown in the State legislature and served with distinction through 1990. He championed victims' rights, environmental initiatives, and led the fight to implement Massachusetts' first gay rights legislation.

Although Joe left the legislature in 1990, he never stopped advocating for his community. Joe was the founding member of Dreams for Youth, a nonprofit organization that provides financial support for a number of worthwhile groups, including Somerville's youth programs, the Somerville Scholarship Foundation and the Girls' Pride Basketball Foundation.

During his lifetime, Joe received many well-deserved honors. He was named Legislator of the Year by the Massachusetts Bar Association and the Massachusetts Victim and Witness Assistance Board for his work on behalf of crime victims. The Victim Advocacy Network also honored Joe as an Outstanding Legislator.

Throughout Joe's life, he worked to improve his community. Whether it was through the legislative process or as a private citizen devoting time to a worthy cause, Joe exemplified the value of giving something back.

LEGISLATION TO DESIGNATE THE
FEDERAL COURTHOUSE IN
SANTA FE, NM, AFTER JUDGE
SANTIAGO CAMPOS

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 2007

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Judge Santiago Campos by reintroducing legislation to name the Federal courthouse in Santa Fe, New Mexico, after him. We are approaching the sixth anniversary of his passing, which occurred on January 20, 2001, and naming this courthouse after the first Hispanic appointed to the Federal bench in New Mexico is a long overdue tribute. I am again pleased to be joined in introducing this legislation by Representatives GONZALEZ, GRIJALVA, McDERMOTT, GREEN, and PASTOR. They have all cosponsored in the past and I thank them for cosponsoring again.

Judge Santiago Campos was the first Hispanic appointed to the Federal bench in New Mexico, serving from 1978 until his death in 2001, including as chief judge from 1987 through 1989. Judge Campos' career of public service only culminated with his service as a United States District Court Judge, as he also served in the United States Navy as a seaman first class from 1944 to 1946, as the Assistant and First Assistant Attorney General of New Mexico from 1954 to 1957, and as a District Court Judge from 1971 to 1978 in the First Judicial District in the State of New Mexico. Judge Campos served with distinction on the bench and displayed both firmness and compassion with those who entered his courtroom. He was a life long resident of New Mexico and graduated first in his law school class at the University of New Mexico.

Judge Campos was very active in his courtroom, often exercising his right to question witnesses in the middle of cross-examinations. Many agree that he became more involved in a case than other judges, but still let a lawyer try his own case. One of his most memorable cases ordered the Gannett Co. to return the New Mexican, Santa Fe's daily newspaper, to its former owner, Robert McKinney, due to a breach of contract.

During his career, Campos was an honorary member of the Order of the Coif. He also received the Distinguished Achievement Award of the State Bar of New Mexico in 1993, and in the same year the University of New Mexico honored him with a Distinguished Achievement Award.

Madam Speaker, following his passing, the New Mexico State legislature passed a joint memorial requesting Congress to name the Federal courthouse in Santa Fe, New Mexico, after Judge Campos. Judge Campos had his chambers in this courthouse for over 22 years. In addition, the judges of the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals who reside in New Mexico and the district judges of the District of New Mexico unanimously requested and support congressional action to name the Federal courthouse after Judge Campos. I am pleased to once again take up this effort.

I am hopeful this will be the year to get this legislation passed and signed into law to honor this great man with a small token of appreciation for the remarkable life that he lived.

IMPLEMENTING THE 9/11 COMMIS-
SION RECOMMENDATIONS ACT
OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2007

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, on September 11th, 2001, my congressional district lost well over one hundred people; and tens of thousands of lives were shattered.

So it is on their behalf that I rise today and support passage of this bill, to implement the recommendations of the bipartisan 9-11 Commission.

I am grateful that the first bill to be passed in the first hours of a new majority is this one. Because America can't afford to wait another minute. We've had 5½ years of excuses, delays, postponements and lobbying. That's 5½ years too long.

Even today, Mr. Speaker, there are some who doubt we can meet the deadlines to screen air cargo in 3 years and shipping cargo in 5 years.

Mr. Speaker, America's greatest triumphs were not achieved by saying "it's too hard." They were secured by refusing to take no for an answer.

In 1962, 5 years after Sputnik was launched, John F. Kennedy said, "By the end of the decade we will land on the moon."

In 2007, over 5 years after 9-11, we are saying, "by the end of the decade we will screen all air cargo on our planes."

If we could research, develop, engineer and build the systems that lifted people into space, out of orbit, propel them to the moon, land them on the moon, bring them back to their capsule, return to earth, survive a fiery re-entry and deposit them safely in the ocean—then we should be able to figure out how to screen air cargo in a way that minimizes risk and inconvenience to people who get on planes.

Mr. Speaker, when it came to securing America's place in the world, President Kennedy didn't say "I wish we could land a man on the moon but it's not easy enough, so instead we'll send a bus to Des Moines."

Mr. Speaker, when it came to preserving our national survival, President Roosevelt didn't say, "Yesterday was a day of infamy, so let's spend 5½ years figuring out how to respond with the least inconvenience to the American people."

Mr. Speaker, when it comes to the safety and security of my constituents, there can be no more excuses, no further delay, no higher priority.

And to those who disagree with me, who earnestly and honorably believe we must continue to study feasibility and practicalities, I will share other words of President Kennedy, from that same speech when he told America we would go to the moon:

We choose to go the moon in this decade and do the other things, not because they are easy, but because they are hard, because that goal will serve to organize and measure the best of our energies and skills, because that challenge is one that we are willing to accept, one we are unwilling to postpone, and one which we intend to win, and the others, too.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE NA-
TIVE HAWAIIAN GOVERNMENT
REORGANIZATION ACT OF 2007

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 2007

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill which is a companion measure to legislation introduced by Senator DANIEL AKAKA in the Senate this morning. This measure is called the Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act of 2007. The purpose of the bill is to provide a process for the reorganization of the Native Hawaiian governing entity for the purposes of a federally recognized government-to-government relationship.

On this day 114 years ago, the monarchy of the Kingdom of Hawaii was overthrown by agents of the United States. This injustice created wounds and issues that have never been healed or resolved. Fourteen years ago, the United States government took a step toward reconciling this part of history by passing a resolution which acknowledged the overthrow of the Kingdom of Hawaii and offered an apology to Native Hawaiians.

The Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act would take another step in the reconciliation process by providing Native Hawaiians the same right of self-governance and self-determination that are afforded to other indigenous peoples. Since Hawaii was annexed as a territory, the United States has treated Native Hawaiians in a manner similar to that of American Indians and Alaska Natives. This bill would formalize that relationship and establish parity in federal policies towards all of our indigenous peoples.

This bill will also provide a structured process to address the longstanding issues resulting from the overthrow of the Kingdom of Hawaii. This discussion has been avoided for far too long because no one has known how to address or deal with the emotions that arise when these matters are discussed. There has been no structured process. Instead, there has been fear as to what the discussion would entail, causing people to avoid the issues. Such behavior has led to high levels of anger and frustration, as well as misunderstandings between Native Hawaiians and non-Native Hawaiians.

The bill provides a structured process to negotiate and resolve these issues with the federal and state governments and will alleviate the growing mistrust, misunderstanding, anger, and frustration about these matters.

This measure is supported by Hawaii's Governor, Linda Lingle, Hawaii's Congressional delegation, and the Hawaii State Legislature. The bill is also supported by a number of organizations in Hawaii who have passed resolutions in support of enacting this bill.

I ask my colleagues to support this measure and advance the reconciliation process for our people.

A TRIBUTE TO DEACON JOHN
HENRY WOOTEN, SR.

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 2007

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to pay tribute to Deacon John Henry Wooten, Sr. of Goldsboro, North Carolina. Deacon Wooten, an icon in education and service for Eastern North Carolina and a man whom I greatly admired, passed away this week.

Madam Speaker, Deacon Wooten's lifelong commitment to education left an indelible mark on the people he served. He received both his Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees from North Carolina A&T State University, and went on to serve on their Board of Trustees from 1993–2001. His work as a science teacher and principal of Dillard High School in Goldsboro, and also as an administrator of Goldsboro City Schools, enriched the lives of countless young people from the County of Wayne. His commitment to service began much earlier, as he served bravely in the United States Army during World War II and as a reservist until 1949.

Deacon Wooten's dedication to community service extended well beyond education and the military. He served for 12 years on the Wayne County Board of Commissioners and was the first African-American chairman of that Board. He also served on the Goldsboro Redevelopment Commission, the Board of Directors for Wayne Memorial Hospital, the Wayne Health Corporation and on the Salvation Army Advisory Board. All of that aside, one of his greatest contributions was to the First African Missionary Baptist Church of Goldsboro, where he served as a Deacon, Sunday School teacher, President of the Laymen's League and as a member of the chorus. Deacon Wooten's faithfulness to the church and his tireless work for our community spoke volumes of his unselfish character.

Madam Speaker, Deacon Wooten has often been recognized for the many accomplishments he achieved over his lifetime. The North Carolina A&T State University National Alumni Association recognized him for Outstanding Leadership as President in 1988. The Neuse River Council of Governments named him Outstanding Commissioner of the Year in 1993. A member of the Omega Psi Phi fraternity, he was twice named their Man of the Year and won many other honors throughout his life.

Madam Speaker, in honor and recognition of Deacon John Henry Wooten's diligent service as an educator, legislator and leader, I ask my Colleagues to join me in paying a final tribute to this great man.

STEM CELL RESEARCH ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. JEFF FORTENBERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 11, 2007

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, please find attached references which conclusively

demonstrate the therapeutic benefits experienced by human patients who have undergone a variety of adult stem cell treatments. These references are available at www.stemcellresearch.org. Also, please find attached the text of a Wall Street Journal article on November 16, 2006, citing progress on amniotic stem cell research as referenced in my floor statement during the January 11 debate on H.R. 3.

PEER-REVIEWED REFERENCES SHOWING APPLICATIONS OF ADULT STEM CELLS THAT PRODUCE THERAPEUTIC BENEFIT FOR HUMAN PATIENTS

ADULT STEM CELLS—HEMATOPOIETIC REPLACEMENT CANCERS

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Ovarian Cancer—Stiff PJ et al.; "High-dose chemotherapy and autologous stem-cell transplantation for ovarian cancer: An autologous blood and marrow transplant registry report"; *Ann. Intern. Med.* 133, 504–515; Oct. 3, 2000. Schilder, RJ and Shea, TC; "Multiple cycles of high-dose chemotherapy for ovarian cancer"; *Semin. Oncol.* 25, 349–355; June 1998.

Testicular Cancer—Bhatia S et al.; "High-dose chemotherapy as initial salvage chemotherapy in patients with relapsed testicular cancer"; *J. Clin. Oncol.* 18, 3346–3351; Oct. 19, 2000.

Lymphoma—Josting, A; "Treatment of Primary Progressive Hodgkin's and Aggressive Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma: Is There a Chance for Cure?"; *J Clin Oncol* 18, 332–339; 2000. Koizumi M et al.; "Successful treatment of intravascular malignant lymphomatosis with high-dose chemotherapy and autologous peripheral blood stem cell transplantation"; *Bone Marrow Transplant* 27, 1101–1103; May 2001.

Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia—Laughlin MJ et al.; "Hematopoietic engraftment and survival in adult recipients of umbilical-cord blood from unrelated donors"; *New England Journal of Medicine* 344, 1815–1822; June 14, 2001.

Breast Cancer—Damon LE et al.; "High-dose chemotherapy and hematopoietic stem cell rescue for breast cancer: experience in California"; *Biol. Blood Marrow Transplant* 6, 496–505; 2000.

ADULT STEM CELLS—IMMUNE SYSTEM REPLACEMENT AUTOIMMUNE DISEASES

Systemic Lupus—Burt RK et al., Nonmyeloablative hematopoietic stem cell transplantation for systemic lupus erythematosus, *Journal of the American Medical Association* 295, 527–535, February 1, 2006.

Crohn's Disease—Burt RK et al., "High-dose immune suppression and autologous hematopoietic stem cell transplantation in refractory Crohn disease," *Blood* 101, 2064–2066, March 2003.

Juvenile Arthritis—IM de Kleer et al., Autologous stem cell transplantation for refractory juvenile idiopathic arthritis: analysis of clinical effects, mortality, and transplant related morbidity, *Ann Rheum Dis* 63, 1318–1326, 2004.

Multiple Sclerosis—Saccardi R et al., Autologous HSCT for severe progressive multiple sclerosis in a multicenter trial: impact on disease activity and quality of life, *Blood* 105, 2601–2607, 15 March 2005.

ANEMIAS AND OTHER BLOOD CONDITIONS

Sickle Cell Anemia—Klein A et al., Hematopoietic stem cell transplantation for

severe sickle cell disease, *Rev Med Brux.* 2005; 26 Spec no: Sp23–5.

Chronic Epstein-Barr Infection—Fujii N et al.; "Allogeneic peripheral blood stem cell transplantation for the treatment of chronic active Epstein-Barr virus infection"; *Bone Marrow Transplant* 26, 805–808; Oct. 2000.

ADULT STEM CELLS—REPAIR/REPLACEMENT OF SOLID TISSUES METABOLIC DISORDERS

Osteopetrosis—Tsuji Y et al., Successful nonmyeloablative cord blood transplantation for an infant with malignant infantile osteopetrosis, *J Pediatr Hematol Oncol.* 27, 495–498, Sept 2005.

OCULAR

Corneal Regeneration—Inatomi T et al., Midterm results on ocular surface reconstruction using cultivated autologous oral mucosal epithelial transplantation, *American Journal of Ophthalmology* 141, 267–275, February 2006.

WOUNDS & INJURIES

Limb Gangrene—Tateishi-Yuyama E et al., "Therapeutic angiogenesis for patients with limb ischaemia by autologous transplantation of bone-marrow cells: a pilot study and a randomized controlled trial"; *Lancet* 360, 427–435; 10 August 2002.

HEART DAMAGE

Acute Heart Damage—Joseph J et al., Safety and effectiveness of granulocyte-colony stimulating factor in mobilizing stem cells and improving cytokine profile in advanced chronic heart failure, *American Journal of Cardiology* 97, 681–684, 1 March 2006.

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NEURAL DEGENERATIVE DISEASES & INJURIES

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PARKINSON'S DISEASE

Using Direct Stimulation of Patients' Endogenous Adult Neural Stem Cells—Love S et al., Glial cell line-derived neurotrophic factor induces neuronal sprouting in human brain, *Nature Medicine* 11, 703–704, July 2005.

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LIVER DISEASE

Liver Cirrhosis—Terai S et al., Improved liver function in liver cirrhosis patients after autologous bone marrow cell fusion therapy, *Stem Cells* published online 15 June 2006; DOI: 10.1634/stemcells.2005-0542.

BLADDER DISEASE

End-Stage Bladder Disease—Atala A et al., Tissue-engineered autologous bladders for patients needing cytoplasty, *The Lancet* 367, 1241–1246, 15 April 2006.

SCIENTISTS GROW HEART VALVES EMPLOYING AMNIOTIC STEM CELLS

CHICAGO—Scientists for the first time have grown human heart valves using stem cells from the fluid that cushions babies in the womb—offering a revolutionary approach that may be used to repair defective hearts in the future.

The idea is to create new valves in the lab while the pregnancy progresses and have them ready to implant in a baby with heart defects after it is born.

The Swiss experiment follows recent success growing bladders and blood vessels and suggests people may one day be able to grow their own replacement heart parts—in some cases, before they're born.

It's one of several sci-fi tissue engineering advances that could lead to homegrown heart valves for infants and adults that are more durable and effective than artificial or cadaver valves.

"This may open a whole new therapy concept to the treatment of congenital heart defects," said Dr. Simon Hoerstrup, a University of Zurich scientist who led the work, which was presented yesterday at an American Heart Association conference.

Also at the meeting, Japanese researchers said they had grown new heart valves in rabbits using cells from the animals' own tissue. It is the first time replacement heart valves have been created in this manner, said lead author Dr. Kyoko Hayashida.

One percent of all newborns, or more than one million babies born world-wide each year, have heart problems. These kill more babies in the U.S. in the first year of life than any other birth defect, according to the National Institutes of Health.

Heart-valve defects can be detected with ultrasound tests at about 20 weeks of pregnancy. At least one-third of afflicted infants have problems that could be treated with replacement valves, Dr. Hoerstrup said.

Conventional procedures to fix faulty heart valves all have drawbacks. Artificial valves are prone to blood clots and patients must take anticoagulating drugs for life. Valves from human cadavers or animals can deteriorate, requiring repeated open-heart surgeries to replace them, Dr. Hijazi said. That's especially true in children, because these valves don't grow along with the body. Valves made from the patient's own cells are living tissue and might be able to grow with the patient, said Dr. Hayashida, a scientist at the National Cardiovascular Center Research Institute in Osaka.

The Swiss procedure has another advantage: using cells the fetus sheds in amniotic fluid avoids controversy because it doesn't involve destroying embryos to get stem cells.

ON INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIVE HAWAIIAN GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION ACT OF 2007

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 2007

Ms. HIRONO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for the Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act of 2007, which is being introduced today by Senators AKAKA and INOUE in the Senate and by Congressman ABERCROMBIE and me in the House.

The central purpose of the bill is to extend the federal policy of self-determination and self-governance provided to the other indigenous peoples of the United States—American Indians and Alaskan Natives—to Native Hawaiians. In addition, the bill establishes an office in the Department of the Interior to focus on Native Hawaiian issues and establishes a federal interagency working group.

The United States Congress has a long history of treating Native Hawaiians as an indige-

nous people. The special relationship Native Hawaiians have with the Federal Government is evidenced by the more than 160 statutes Congress has passed over the years to address the needs of the Native Hawaiian people. Nonetheless, the Rice v. Cayetano Supreme Court decision highlighted the need to clarify the authority of Congress to deal with Hawaii's indigenous people on a government-to-government basis under the U.S. Constitution's Indian Commerce Clause.

I attended the Rice v. Cayetano hearing at the Supreme Court while I was serving as Hawaii's lieutenant governor. I wanted to hear first hand where the Justices were on the question of whether Hawaiians are indigenous people. Clearly, there was a lack of understanding on this point, which resulted in an unfavorable decision in the case.

It is important to note that the Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act, also known as the Akaka bill, enjoys wide support in the State of Hawaii. As demonstrated by the introduction of these bills, the entire Congressional delegation supports the bill. Hawaii's Republican governor also supports the bill, as do the majority of elected officials in the State.

Today is the 114th anniversary of the illegal overthrow of the Kingdom of Hawaii. It is fitting that we come together on this day to pledge to restore to the Native Hawaiian people the inherent right of self-determination our Nation has granted to the other indigenous peoples of our Nation.

RECOGNIZING JOHN VANDERBURGH FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 2007

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, it is commonly said that public service is not the path to financial wealth. Perhaps that is true, but, as we know, it is an enriching experience in more valuable ways. The rewards for helping people can be found in successfully meeting challenges and in the gratitude of the people helped. Staying true to the demands of public service and remaining committed to the tasks at hand require a strong sense of duty and responsibility.

On January 19, 2007, a faithful public servant with such virtues will leave his post after 35 years. Mr. John Vanderburgh, the Social Security Administration's Disability Programs coordinator for the Guam Federal Disability Office, will retire. The decision to do so was not easy to make. "My job is wonderful," he says. "I get to work directly with the public in a most personal and meaningful way. I also have the privilege of working and negotiating with professional and high-level private and public agencies, and the medical community in general, to try to provide a level of service comparable to that found anywhere stateside."

After serving his country in the U.S. Army, Mr. Vanderburgh launched his public service career with the Social Security Administration in 1974, starting as a claims representative in San Francisco and rising through the ranks to operations supervisor and district manager, with a stint in between as staff assistant for the Civic Center. In 1988, John moved to the

San Francisco Regional Office's Disability Quality Branch, to focus on the disability program. In 1995, John came to Guam to head the Federal Disability Office.

The Guam Federal Disability Office, FDO, serves the Pacific territories—from Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas to American Samoa, an expansive and culturally and linguistically diversified area. Yet, during his tenure, John has maintained the FDO as a full-service Federal disability determination center, processing some 1,000 disability claims annually.

Although John will be missed, we join his staff in wishing him well. And on behalf of the people of Guam, we commend him for his service to our community, we congratulate him on his retirement, and we thank him for a job well done.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 2007

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, pursuant to my leave of absence, I am submitting for the RECORD how I would have voted if I had been present earlier today, in addition to comments that I request also be entered into the record.

I would have voted as follows on today's recorded votes: rollcall No. 27—Yea—H. Con. Res. 31—Honoring the Mare Island Original 21ers for their efforts to increase equal employment opportunities in the military, rollcall No. 28—Yea—H.R. 434—Short Term Extension of the Small Business Administration, rollcall No. 29—Nay—Ordering the Previous Question on the Rule for H.R. 5, rollcall No. 30—Nay—Adoption of the Rule for H.R. 5, rollcall No. 31—Yea—Republican Motion to Recommit for H.R. 5, and rollcall No. 32—Nay—Final Passage of H.R. 5.

H.R. 5 which is being considered without regular order or Republican input, falls far short of their original proposal to cut all student loan interest rates in half, increase Pell grants and increase tax deductions for parents of college students. This legislation is not part of a comprehensive approach which provides accountability and transparency for escalating tuition costs. A temporary interest rate decrease for college graduates is only part of the solution. The reduced interest rate does not apply to PLUS loans, consolidation loans, or unsubsidized Stafford loans.

Rollcall No. 33—Yea—H. Res. 58—To Honor Muhammad Ali, global humanitarian, on the occasion of his 65th birthday.

HONORING THE MARE ISLAND ORIGINAL 21ERS

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 16, 2007

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 31, which honors the 21 African-American workers at Mare Island Naval Shipyard

who filed a complaint of racial discrimination in 1961. This courageous decision to speak out led then Defense Secretary Robert McNamara to acknowledge the presence of military employment discrimination based on race in 1963. These 21 workers went on to establish the "Original 21ers Club" for the purpose of elevating qualified minorities in every phase of Mare Island employment. Their efforts have led to increased equal opportunity employment in the region and in military facilities throughout the rest of the Nation, and it is for this great impact on our society that we honor them today.

I thank my friend, the distinguished gentleman from California, Chairman GEORGE MILLER, for introducing this bill acknowledging the efforts of these hardworking men. It is especially fitting that we pass this legislation today, the first legislative day after the observance of the national holiday honoring the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Madam Speaker, this legislation highlights President John F. Kennedy's establishment of the Committee of Equal Employment Opportunity in 1961, which allowed the 21 workers proper recognition of their complaint. This committee was an essential forerunner to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in existence today.

I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this bill to honor these young men and their efforts toward equal opportunity employment for all Americans.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the *Extensions of Remarks*

section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, January 18, 2007 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JANUARY 19

9:30 a.m.
Appropriations
Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies
Subcommittee Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
To hold joint hearings to examine stem cell research.

SD-192

JANUARY 23

9:30 a.m.
Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Lieutenant General David H. Petraeus, USA, to be General and Commander, Multi-National Forces-Iraq.

SR-325

Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine challenges and strategies for securing the U.S. border.

SD-226

10 a.m.
Budget
To hold hearings to examine the growing tax gap and strategies for reducing it.

SD-608

JANUARY 24

9 a.m.
Foreign Relations
Business meeting to consider S. Con. Res. 2, a resolution expressing the bipartisan resolution on Iraq.

SH-216

9:45 a.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine analysis completed by the Energy Information Administration, "Energy Market and Economic Impacts of a Proposal to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Intensity with a Cap and Trade System".

SD-366

10 a.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings to examine the state of the airline industry, focusing on the potential impact of airline mergers and industry consolidation.

SR-253

Finance

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Michael J. Astrue, of Massachusetts, to be Commissioner of Social Security.

SD-215

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Organizational business meeting to consider an original resolution authorizing expenditures for committee operations, committee's rules of procedure for the 110th Congress, and subcommittee assignments; committee will also consider the Genetic Information Non-discrimination Act.

SD-430

JANUARY 25

9:30 a.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine oil and gas resources on the Outer Continental Shelf and areas available for leasing in the Gulf of Mexico.

SD-366

JANUARY 30

10 a.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine the status of Federal land management agencies' efforts to contain the costs of their wildlife suppression activities and to consider recent independent reviews of and recommendations for those efforts.

SD-366

2 p.m.
Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine the remaining options, alternative plans and the Iraq Study Group relating to securing America's interests in Iraq.

SH-216

FEBRUARY 1

10 a.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings to examine the communications marketplace relating to the FCC.

SR-253

FEBRUARY 8

9:30 a.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine issues relating to labor, immigration, law enforcement, and economic conditions in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

SD-366